

Picture Perfect

Picture-framing a fireplace creates the finishing touch

By Martin Verhagen



What sets an experienced flooring contractor apart from an ordinary installer are the details. One detail that adds interest and value to a wood flooring installation is a picture-framed fireplace. We picture-frame every fireplace we do. Most often, the wood picture frame surrounds a tile hearth. Before we make our first cut, we verify the hearth size with the tile contractor and ask how much space to allow for the grout, which can add $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch between each tile. Accuracy is key, so we measure and dry-fit often. There are times when you may have to improvise. On this job, the builder decided at the last minute against using tile and left it up to me to fill in the space I had already picture-framed. The result was a parquet pattern, shown at left. Here we used ipé for everything, but adding a contrasting species for the entire picture frame or as a feature strip is a great way to draw attention to the focal point. Whatever the case, be sure to charge for the extra time it takes to create the picture frame.



Step 1

Find the center of the fireplace and mark it on the subfloor. Also mark the length and width of the hearth. Be sure to check the placement of the fireplace relative to the wall and the floor. Oftentimes, the fireplace and the floor may not be square to each other, and the tile contractor is limited in how much he can adjust for this. You may need to make some adjustments to keep everything square.



Step 2

Miter-cut the two end pieces for the frame. Their length should be the depth of the hearth plus the width of the board. In this case, that adds up to $13\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

SUPPLY LIST

- Miter saw
- Spline
- Table saw
- Tape measure
- Router with grooving bit
- Nailer
- Finish nailer
- Carpenter square
- Wood glue



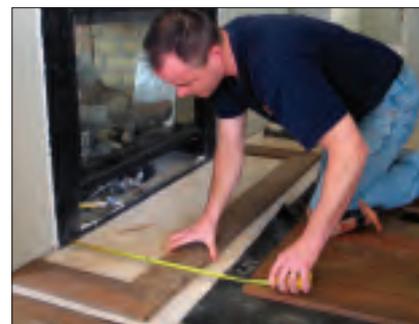
Step 3

Groove and insert spline into the outer edge and miter of the board, adhering the spline with wood glue.



Step 4

Make the miter cuts for the long board in the front of the picture frame. To determine the total length, add the width of the flooring times two (for a board on each side) to the length of the fireplace hearth. Here, the hearth is 53 inches wide and the flooring is 5 inches wide, for a total of 63 inches. Rout the mitered ends and glue in spline to create a tongue.



Step 5

Dry-fit the frame and verify the distance in front of the fireplace to the back of the board. In this case, it should measure 13 1/4 inches. Trace the inside edge of the boards on the subfloor so you know where to apply the glue.

Solid, Durable, Beautiful: A Singular Choice

For ductwork finish applications requiring a simple, mono-directional airflow and a classic, traditional look with the warm glow of wood, install All American Wood Registers.

All American's mono-directional, horizontal-slotted registers are milled in America from a solid piece of wood. This single-component design gives your customers the industry's highest durability for years of dependable, great-looking service. More than 60 species to choose from, fine-sanded to finish and install quickly and easily.

Don't skimp on the final touches: Choose the registers that reflect best on you.

Shipping 24 hours stock orders • 48 hours most custom orders

Many styles available with and without dampers



www.allamericanwood.com

Proud member of the
National Wood
Flooring Association



815.728.8888



Step 6

I've installed the field almost up to the edge of the picture frame. Before I install my first board in the picture frame, I like to cut (and groove) the partial board that will go next to it. If I don't do that now, I'll have to struggle to slide it in later. Here, I start with the board on the left.



Step 7

Verify that the picture frame is square to the floor, then dry-fit the pre-cut board with the outside of the frame. Once you are satisfied everything lines up, nail the pre-cut board to the field.



Step 8

Glue the side board of the picture frame first, then glue the front piece.

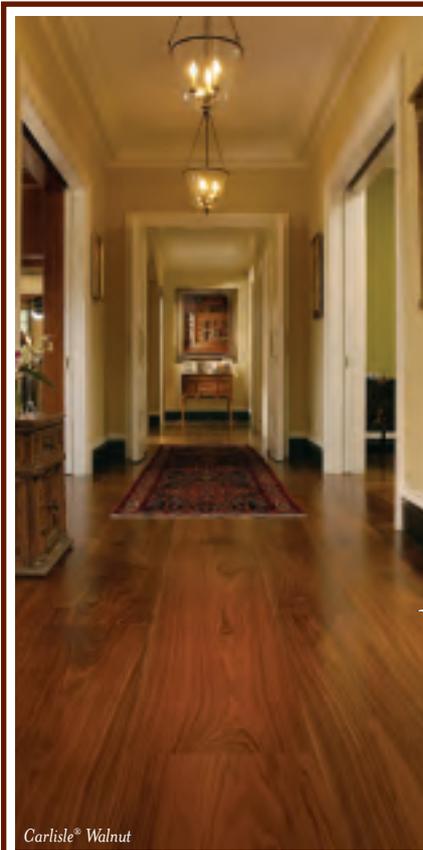
THE WOODEYE STRONG ARGUMENTS COLLECTION

No. 3: Unrivalled quality and functionality



WoodEye
by Innovativ Vision
www.woodeyeinc.com

Circle 39



Carlisle® Walnut

FSC
CERTIFIED
ANTIQUE WOOD

- Specializing in Old Growth and Antique pines and hardwoods
- Easy to install
- A variety of installation methods, including over concrete
- 99% on-time delivery direct to job site
- Ideal over radiant heat
- Virtually maintenance free and easy to clean

Call for a free brochure

800-595-9663

Carlisle
Wide Plank Floors®

Finely crafted. Trusted for generations.

ATLANTAGA DENVERCO
STODDARDNH



By buying products made with the FSC label you are supporting the growth of responsible forest management worldwide.

SW-COC-002350 © 1996 Forest Stewardship Council A.C.

www.wideplankflooring.com

Circle 40



Step 9

Rack out the floor around the frame. Then nail the side board.



Step 10

When you get to the other side, you'll need to rip another board to fit. Mark, measure, rip and rout the board so it seamlessly fits the frame. Groove the cut area.



Step 11

Dry-fit the side piece with the board you just ripped. If it's a good fit, glue the last side of the picture frame.



*Celebrating our fifth year of quality flooring.
Join the Professional's Network for special benefits
www.brazilianhardwood.com/pro*

Our NWFA Awards
*2004 Floor of the Year
2006 Best Prefinished Installation*



Prefinished & Unfinished Exotic Hardwood Flooring

Brazilian Cherry Santos Mahogany
Brazilian Teak Brazilian Walnut

And more

**80+ Warehouses
In 50 States**

Phone: 888-452-8622

Fax: 215-529-9465

www.brazilianhardwood.com
info@brazilianhardwood.com



Step 12

It never hurts to double-check the measurements and ensure everything is square before you nail in the last board.



Step 13

Use the nailer on the board you cut in Step 10 only where it meets the field.



Step 14

Use a finish nailer to nail near the wall and in the tongue on the side of the board where it meets the picture frame (so you don't push the frame out of position). Once that board is secured, you can nail in the last side piece of the picture frame. ■

Martin Verhagen is president at contracting company Old World Wood Floors in Oregon, Wis.

See what the future brings



DOMOTEX asia/CHINAFLOOR in Shanghai, 11-13 March 2008
 DOMOTEX Middle East in Dubai, 25-27 May 2008
 For further information contact: Hannover Fairs USA
 Tel. +1 (562)-901-9191 · info@hf-usa.com · www.hf-usa.com/domotex

Deutsche Messe
 Hannover · Germany

Visit DOMOTEX HANNOVER!

- The trade's most important business platform worldwide
- Ideal for making valuable contacts in industry, the trade, the skilled trades and the world of interior design
- Discover trends, innovative products and the latest information and lay the basis for a successful new business year

For information updates use our service at www.domotex.de

Feel the Trends of Tomorrow.

12-15 January 2008

DOMOTEX
 H A N N O V E R

The World of Flooring